

ABSTRACT

A Phase III data recovery program was conducted on 3.4 acres of the 3.5 acre parcel of the William M. Hawthorn Farmstead National Register site, located near Christiana, in White Clay Creek Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. Fieldwork was undertaken by crews of the Delaware Department of Transportation in 1982. Additional archival research and artifact analysis was undertaken by the University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research in 1983. Archival research and artifacts recovered from the excavations indicate that the site was occupied from the mid-18th century to 1961. Analyses of artifact disposal patterns show a shift sometime in the late-19th century from activities and trash disposal close to the house to a more dispersed set of activities including the erection of numerous farm support buildings. A re-orientation of the house in 1902 is also noted. Through time shifts in farming activities from grain farming, to diversified farming, to dairy farming are noted. These shifts are seen as related to the proximity of the farm to the urban markets of Wilmington and Philadelphia. Specifically, the shifts in farm production are a response to shifting market demands. Throughout most of the occupation of the site the occupants are in the top 4-12% economic class of the local area, as shown by archival research. However, no clear expressions of this higher status can be seen in the artifacts recovered from the site except to note that through time there is a shift in ceramic use from local red wares to imported English white wares and ironstone.